

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Original) A retardation element characterized in that comprising a substrate, a thin film layer of a liquid crystalline or non liquid crystalline polymer thin film layer having photoactive groups wherein the thin film is formed on the substrate and the axis of the photoactive groups are oriented in a micropattern form by, subjected to photo orientation treatment is formed on a substrate, and a birefringence layer oriented in a micropattern form is formed so as to contact with said polymer thin film layer, wherein an axis of birefringence molecules of said birefringence layer is oriented in a micropattern form which is controlled by orientation of the axis of said photoactive groups.

2. (Original) The retardation element according to Claim 1, wherein the photoactive group is at least one group selected from a group consisting of non-aromatic N=N, non-aromatic C=C and non-aromatic C=N.

3. (Original) The retardation element according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the liquid crystalline polymer thin

film layer is a thin film layer consisting of a polyamide resin, a polyimide resin, a polyester resin, a polyurethane resin, or a polyvinyl cinnamate resin.

4. (Original) The retardation element according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the non liquid crystalline polymer thin film layer is a thin film layer consisting of polymethacryloyl(acryloyl) oxymethoxycarbonyloxyethyl-azobenzene.

5-21. (Cancelled)